

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the second paragraph on page 12, starting on line 12 with the following paragraph:

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20 This process can then be repeated for subsequent data tracks 112, 114. While the certification head 104 is scanning a data track 110, the thermal asperity detector 24 on the write head 102 is used to detect thermal asperities on the data track ~~102~~ 110. After scanning the data track ~~100~~ 110 for thermal asperities, the write element 26 writes another track 112, and the process is repeated until the portion of the disc 120 for which verification is desired is scanned for both magnetic defects and thermal asperities. The entire disc 120 can be scanned for thermal asperities and magnetic defects using the example embodiment of the method of the present invention discussed. Alternatively, a selected, representative portion of the disc 120 can be scanned for thermal asperities and magnetic defects and the results can be used to statistically characterize the unscanned portion of the disc 120.

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